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MARRIAGE & FAMILY THERAPY

MARRIAGE COUNSELOR EXAMINERS

FILED

PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR PO BOX 45044 6TH FLR. NEWARK, NJ 07102

By: Marilyn Bair

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STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR EXAMINERS COMMITTEE

IN THE MATTER OF

DOLORES TORRELL

Administrative Action

Unlicensed to Practice Professional Counseling In the State of New Jersey

CONSENT ORDER

This matter was opened to the New Jersey Professional Counselor Examiners Committee (hereinafter "the Committee") upon receipt of information that Dolores Torrell (hereinafter "respondent") was providing counseling services in the State of New Jersey without a license. Respondent is the owner of Compassionate Heart Holistic Program, Inc., a for-profit business which advertises that respondent is an experienced counselor offering counseling services to individuals, couples and groups.

Respondent in fact provided counseling services to D.C. and J.C who presented as a couple with marital problems. Respondent informed them that she was a psychotherapist with a private practice who treated various mental health issues. Respondent suggested that the couple return for counseling every few weeks. She charged them \$60.00 for the session, giving them a billing statement which stated "marriage counseling" as the professional service provided.

Having reviewed the entire record, it appears to the Committee that respondent has repeatedly engaged in the unlicensed practice of professional counseling in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:8B-39 by having advertised and/or engaged in and/or offered counseling services to the public which she was not legally authorized to engage in or to offer.

It appearing that respondent desires to resolve this matter without recourse to formal proceedings and for good cause shown:

IT IS ON THIS 15th DAY OF May 2003,

## HEREBY ORDERED AND AGREED THAT:

1. Respondent shall immediately cease and desist from offering to provide and providing any counseling services in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:8B-39. Respondent shall immediately cease and desist from offering to provide or providing any type of counseling and/or therapy which requires a license. Respondent shall immediately withdraw and cancel any advertising of herself as

- 2. Respondent is hereby assessed a civil penalty in the amount of one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) for having engaged in the unlicensed practice of professional counseling in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:8B-39.
- 3. Respondent shall pay the costs of the investigation of this matter in the amount of four thousand, two hundred and seventeen dollars (\$4,217.00).
- 4. Respondent shall pay the above penalty and costs, totaling five thousand, two hundred and seventeen dollars (5,217.00) in twenty (20), consecutive, monthly payments with the first payment being in the amount of two hundred and seventy-seven dollars (\$277.00), and the remaining nineteen payments being in the amount of two hundred and sixty dollars (\$260.00). The first payment shall be due on or before June 15, 2003, and the remaining nineteen payments shall be due on or before the fifteenth day of each month until the penalty is paid in full. Payment shall be by certified check or money order, payable to the State of New Jersey, and sent to Dennis Gonzalez, Executive Director, Professional Counselor Examiners Committee, P.O. Box 45044, Newark, New Jersey 07101. If any payment is untimely, the full amount shall be immediately due and payable.
- 6. Should respondent fail to comply with the terms of this order, respondent may be subject to enhanced penalties pursuant to

the Uniform Enforcement Act, N.J.S.A. 45:1-25, and other proceedings as provided by law, including but not limited to N.J.S.A. 45:1-23 and N.J.S.A. 45:1-24.

NEW JERSEY PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS

EXAMINERS COMMITTEE

I have read the within Consent Order and understand its terms. I hereby consent to its entry and to be bound by the Consent Order's terms.